



**The Herndon Optimist Club  
and The Herndon Police Department**

**Proudly Present**

**The Sixth Annual Valor  
Awards Ceremony**

November 2, 2006

**In Honor of Those Who Have Served “In Partnership With Our Community”  
Beyond the Call of Duty**

## *From the Chief*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Herndon Optimist Club for its continued support of the Herndon community in general and its support of the men and women of the Herndon Police Force in particular.

The women and men honored at this ceremony are true heroes, dedicated to the community and the profession. The examples of dedication, loyalty and bravery recognized at this ceremony are a testament to these individuals' selfless commitment to the protection of life, limb and property of all.

I am grateful to them, and I salute these heroes and their families.

Toussaint E. Summers, Jr.  
Chief of Police

## **Categories of Awards**

### **Gold Medal**

The highest award for bravery and heroism, in acknowledgment of extreme personal risk and sacrifice above and clearly beyond the call of duty. This award is reserved for recognizing supreme acts of valor.

### **Silver Medal**

The second highest award for bravery and heroism, in acknowledgment of great personal risk and sacrifice beyond that which is required.

### **Bronze Medal**

The third highest award for bravery and heroism, in recognition of acts involving unusual personal risk and sacrifice beyond that which is required.

### **Meritorious Action Award**

This award is established to recognize exemplary action, which does not place the employee in a situation of great personal risk.

### **Meritorious Service Award**

This award is established to recognize sustained, exemplary performance by an employee within the scope of normal responsibilities.

# **2006 Valor Awards**

## **2006 Gold Medal**

## **2006 Silver Medal**

## **2006 Bronze Medal**

Private First Class Edward E. Stapleton  
Detective Lisa A. Kara  
Private First Class E. Brian Hamilton  
Private First Class Justin P. Dyer

## **2006 Meritorious Action Award**

Detective Steven T. Pihonak (2)  
Detective Lisa A. Kara  
Private First Class Edward E. Stapleton  
Senior Sergeant Jerry S. Keys  
Corporal Robert A. Galpin  
Private First Class Damien C. Austin  
Detective R. Lee Duranko (2)  
Detective Claudio A. Saa (3)  
Private E. Beatrice Giron  
Private First Class E. Brian Hamilton  
Private Sean L. McManus  
HCPST Jorge Rochac  
Senior Police Officer G. Warren Brathwaite  
Corporal Justin K. Williams  
Corporal Khwaja S. Ahmad

## **2006 Meritorious Service Award**

Lieutenant N. Ron Thunman  
Senior Police Officer Dexter L. Morgan  
HPCST Ken Luchetti  
Detective Claudio A. Saa

## **Officer of the Year**

Private First Class Edward E. Stapleton

## *Honorable Mention*

Detective Steven T. Pihonak  
Detective Claudio A. Saa

## **Meritorious Action Award**

**Detective Steven T. Pihonak**

**Detective R. Lee Duranko**

**Detective Claudio R. Saa**

**Private E. Beatrice Giron**

From the beginning of January 2006 and continuing through May 2006, a series of approximately 15 residential burglaries occurred during daylight hours within the Town of Herndon. Additional burglaries were occurring in the Reston area of Fairfax County and in the Sterling area of Loudoun County. The suspects would enter residences through a rear door or window and take mainly cash and jewelry. A male and female were observed in the area of one of the burglaries and there were conflicting vehicle descriptions. There were no other leads or information in these cases.

Eventually, detectives in Reston obtained an arrest warrant for a male suspect who was identified through fingerprints found at a crime scene. Detectives Pihonak and Duranko, along with detectives from the Reston District Station, began conducting surveillance in the area where the burglaries occurred. On May 5th, Detectives Pihonak and Duranko were driving through the residential areas when they observed two males and a female exit a vehicle. The subjects matched the general description of the suspects in the burglaries. They observed the subjects in the front yard of a residence. When the detectives approached the subjects they attempted to hide. The subjects were detained and identified. In the area where the subjects were located, screwdrivers and a chisel were recovered.

The subjects were taken to the police station to be interviewed. They were also interviewed by detectives from Fairfax County and Loudoun County. Detective Claudio Saa and Officer Beatrice Giron were called upon to assist in translating and interviewing the suspects. At first the suspects attempted to deny their involvement in the burglaries, but eventually they all began to confess. They admitted that they were about to burglarize a home when the detectives stopped them. A consent search of their residence resulted in the recovery of a large amount of jewelry, money and electronic equipment valued in excess of \$55,000. The suspects were later charged with several counts of burglary and grand larceny as well as possession of burglarious tools.

These arrests resulted in the closing of 15 residential burglaries within the Town of Herndon as well as at least eight burglaries in Fairfax County and six in Loudoun County. All officers are to be commended for the initiative, attention to details, investigative techniques, interviewing skills, team work and coordination of efforts with outside agencies that resulted in the successful closure of this series of burglaries.

### **Meritorious Action Award**

**Detective R. Lee Duranko**  
**Detective Claudio R. Saa**  
**Private First Class E. Brian Hamilton**  
**Officer Sean McManus**  
**HPCST Jorge Rochac**  
**Corporal Justin K. Williams**  
**Corporal Khwaja S. Ahmad**

Beginning in November, 2005 through the end of January, 2006, a series of armed robberies occurred in the Town of Herndon. In each robbery, the victim was approached by males armed with a handgun and demanding money. The amount of force used in the robberies began with threats and escalated to the point where the victims were being beaten by the suspects. The number of suspects also escalated from two to five. On a single day, January 26, three separate robberies occurred in which the victims were confronted by five male suspects. Detective Duranko was assigned to investigate these three robberies as well as the previously reported crimes. As Detective Duranko and Officer Sean McManus began searching the area of the robberies, they located a victim's wallet in a storm drain near the McDonald's on Elden Street. Acting on a hunch, they viewed surveillance video at the McDonald's, thinking that the suspects may have entered the restaurant. A group of males entered the business shortly after the time of the robbery. Their appearance generally matched that of the suspects.

Detective Duranko and Officer McManus contacted two of the victims from the robberies in order to get more detailed information on the suspects. They enlisted the help of Herndon Support Team Member Jorge Rochac for translation. Both

victims were also shown the video but neither could positively identify the suspects.

While returning to the station from McDonald's, Detective Duranko observed a group of four males who matched the description of the suspects in the video. These males were stopped with the assistance of patrol units. The stop was coordinated so as to prevent the suspects from fleeing the area. One of the males attempted to flee but was unsuccessful due to the number of officers in the area. All four suspects, three juveniles and one adult male, were taken into custody and transported to the station for interviews. Detective Saa was contacted and asked to assist with the interviewing of the suspects.

Detective Duranko began interviewing the juvenile suspects and was able to obtain a confession in which the suspect identified a fifth juvenile involved in the robberies. It was discovered that the fifth suspect was not home at his residence and his location was not known. The fifth suspect's information was provided to patrol units and they were asked to be on the look out for him. Officer Hamilton, who was familiar with the fifth suspect, eventually located him walking in the area of the bike path and Grace Street. Officer Hamilton called for assistance and stopped the fifth suspect. During the search of this suspect, the handgun used in the robberies was recovered from his waistband. This suspect was subsequently transported to the station for an interview.

The interviews resulted in all the suspects admitting involvement in the robberies. The four juveniles were each charged with two counts of robbery, one count of attempted robbery, three counts of use of a firearm in a felony and three counts of abduction. They later pleaded guilty to the robberies in juvenile court. The adult was charged with three counts of robbery, one count of attempted robbery, four counts of abduction, and four counts of use of a firearm in a felony. In addition to these four robberies for which these suspects were charged, they are also suspects in four other robberies. Furthermore, information obtained in the interviews also linked the suspects to at least one robbery in Fairfax County.

The arrest of these suspects resulted in the closure of a series of eight armed robberies which occurred between November of 2005 and January of 2006. The officers are to be commended for their initiative, attention to details, investigative techniques and interviewing skills which resulted in admissions from the suspects. Without these admissions, there would have been insufficient evidence to charge them with the robberies or obtain convictions in court.

Support Team Member Jorge Rochac is to be commended for the translation assistance he provided in interviewing the victims as well as for getting them to come forward and report that they were victims of a crime. Had the robberies on the night of January 26, 2006 gone unreported, these crimes may still be unsolved. Given the fact that the force being used by the suspects was escalating, any further delay may have resulted in some future victim receiving serious injuries.

## **Meritorious Action Award**

### **Senior Police Officer G. Warren Brathwaite**

On April 15, 2006, a malicious wounding occurred in the parking lot of a café located at 137 Spring Street. The victim was struck in the head with a beer bottle, which broke into several pieces. The suspect then slashed the victim's neck with a piece of the broken bottle. During the course of the investigation, a possible suspect was identified. The detective working the case also found out that the suspect associates with a motorcycle club. The detective approached Officer Brathwaite, knowing that he also associates with some motorcycle clubs, to see if he was familiar with the suspect. Officer Brathwaite recognized the suspect as part of a group that frequents the Starbucks on Elden Street.

Later that night, Officer Brathwaite, who was off duty and on his own time, drove his motorcycle to the Starbucks, hoping to see the suspect. Officer Brathwaite stayed on the scene for a while observing the area. Eventually, the suspect was observed in the crowd. Officer Brathwaite contacted the on-duty supervisor and apprised him of the situation. The suspect was taken into custody and transported to the station to be interviewed. The suspect denied all involvement but was later identified in a photo line-up. He was charged with malicious wounding.

Officer Brathwaite is to be commended for his dedication, observation skills and willingness to go above and beyond what is expected of a police officer. On his own time and using his own resources, he was able to locate an attacker that savagely assaulted a victim with a broken beer bottle.



## **Meritorious Action Award**

**Senior Sergeant Jerry S. Keys  
Corporal Robert A. Galpin  
Private First Class Damien C. Austin**

On Wednesday, March 8, 2006, Senior Sergeant Jerry Keys and Officer Damien Austin responded to the 700 block of Elden Street for a report of a male subject attempting to commit suicide by taking an overdose of medication.

Initially they couldn't find the potentially suicidal subject. The officers found the phone from which the call was made and, after obtaining a description of the last person using the phone, they were able to locate a subject fitting that description in a parking lot. Officer Austin attempted to speak with the subject when he pulled out a broken glass beer bottle and pressed it to his neck. Officer Austin ordered the subject to drop the broken glass but he refused to do so. The subject told Sergeant Keys that he wanted to die and he continued to disobey direct orders to drop the glass shard. Officer Austin contacted dispatch and requested that an officer with a Taser respond. Corporal Galpin immediately responded to assist Sergeant Keys and Officer Austin. Other officers responded and held the perimeter to keep the subject contained to a portion of the parking lot.

Corporal Galpin arrived on the scene and again the subject was ordered to drop the broken bottle. The subject refused and told the officer to, "Shoot me." Corporal Galpin fired one cartridge from his Taser, striking the subject in his right arm and midsection. While the subject was immobilized, Sergeant Keys and Officer Austin grabbed the subject and lowered him to the ground. They were concerned that if the subject fell, he could fall on the broken glass piece and seriously injure himself. The subject was then taken into custody without further incident.

This was a situation that could have had a very tragic end result for either the subject with the broken bottle or one of the officers. This subject clearly demonstrated his desire to die. Sergeant Keys, Officer Austin and Corporal Galpin are all to be commended for the way they handled this suicidal subject.

## **Meritorious Action Award**

**Detective Lisa A. Kara**  
**Detective Steven T. Pihonak**

On February 15, 2006, Detective Lisa Kara was assigned a sexual assault case to investigate. The victim was a 16 year old female with a form of autism. The victim told her mother that there was an incident that day with a boy that she knew. She told her mother limited information about what had happened but would not identify the boy or go to the doctor to be checked out. The victim was very upset, and her mother turned to the Herndon Police for help.

Detectives Kara and Pihonak took the initial report and spoke with the victim. The interviewing process was hampered by the fact that the girl was mentally challenged. Because of their experience and patience, the detectives eventually were able to determine what happened, who the suspect was and where the incident took place. The detectives went to the crime scene and were able to obtain crucial evidence in the case.

The victim's mother appreciated the way the detectives handled the case, so much that she sent a letter to the chief of police commending their actions. She stated that the detectives were, "professional and compassionate" and commended the detectives for their expert handling of the case. The victim's mother also indicated that the family had chosen Herndon as their "hometown" and wanted to continue to raise their family here. They contributed their sense of community to the police department.

## **Meritorious Action Award**

**Private First Class Edward E. Stapleton**

On January 25, 2006, Officer Eddie Stapleton was off duty and on his way home from work when he observed a vehicle that matched the description of a vehicle wanted by Loudoun County in regards to a robbery in that jurisdiction. Earlier in his shift, Officer Stapleton was advised of a lookout for the vehicle. Officer Stapleton began following the vehicle and informed the on-duty supervisor about his location and his observations. While Officer Stapleton was following the

vehicle, other officers were able to organize and conduct a high-risk traffic stop. Five suspects were apprehended by the Herndon Police. Found in the vehicle were ski masks, gloves, 10 bags of marijuana and three loaded handguns. The arrest led to the closure of several robbery cases in the Town of Herndon and surrounding jurisdictions. In this specific case, Officer Stapleton was off duty and on his way home. His actions clearly demonstrate his dedication to the Town and the safety of the citizens.

## **Meritorious Action Award**

### **Detective Claudio A. Saa**

On June 17, 2006, Herndon police officers were called to Raven Tower Court for a group of suspicious persons. After arriving on the scene, officers found a vehicle engulfed in flames, which led to two more vehicles catching on fire. Other vehicles were vandalized as well. Canine performed a track and located a suspect. Although Fairfax County Fire Department investigated the arson aspect, the vandalism was believed to be gang related, making the Herndon Police the investigating jurisdiction.

Detective Saa was called at home and asked to come in to interview the suspect. Through his interviewing skills, Detective Saa was able to obtain incriminating statements from the suspect, along with the gang names on the other suspects. Through his vast knowledge of gangs and their participants, he was able to identify the others involved. Detective Saa located one of the additional suspects and through that interview, gathered the names of all five suspects. He assisted in interviewing these suspects and obtained further incriminating statements from them. They also admitted to several larcenies from autos on previous occasions.

Detective Saa's knowledge of street gangs was essential to solving these crimes. His interviewing skills and his ability to gain rapport with gang members resulted in the suspects admitting their involvement in these cases. Between Fairfax County's charges and Herndon's, six juveniles were charged with a total of 33 crimes. There were 10 charges of arson, 10 counts of malicious burning, five counts of felony destruction of property, five counts of misdemeanor destruction of property, one count of gang participation, one count of destruction of property (gang graffiti) and one count of larceny from auto.

## **Meritorious Service Award**

### **HPCST Ken Luchetti**

Ken Luchetti joined the Herndon Police Citizens Support Team (HPCST) in March, 2002. Ken has been an invaluable asset to the Herndon Police and HPCST. He patrols the Town of Herndon on a regular basis. Because Ken patrols on his bicycle, he is able to conduct surveillance in specific trouble areas that a marked police vehicle cannot access.

On one occasion, an officer observed several subjects with a four-wheeler ATV, entering the storage facility on Herndon Parkway. Later, dispatch sent out an alert to be on the look out for a four-wheeler that had been stolen. The officer alerted the on-duty supervisor that he had observed several individuals putting a four-wheeler on the property of the storage facility. HPCST's assistance was requested in setting up surveillance to see if the individuals would return. Ken and Fred Kibler established the surveillance; eventually, a vehicle showed up and proceeded to load the four-wheeler. Dispatch was notified with the make, model, and tag number of the vehicle. The individuals were apprehended with the stolen four-wheeler.

When the HPCST Bicycle Patrol was becoming formally established, Ken took the 40-hour certified bike-training course that was given by the Herndon Police Department. Working with the instructor, he was instrumental with several other team members in setting up a bike-training program geared to the HPCST members. Ken is the main instructor of the HPCST bike training that is required for all HPCST members in order to join the bike patrol team.

Ken monitors his radio and is quick to respond when help is needed for traffic accidents, gas leaks or other emergencies. He can always be counted on to come out any time. On many occasions, Ken has volunteered to take over the direction at an accident scene, or a crime scene, freeing officers to assist with other tasks in the case at hand.

Ken has been trained and authorized to write handicap-parking violations. This allows police officers to concentrate on responding to calls and maintaining visual surveillance of specified trouble areas in the town. Additionally, the Herndon Police Department offers free fingerprinting to citizens and businesses in and around the Town of Herndon. The HPCST performs this task for the Herndon

Police. Ken helps with the fingerprinting on Fridays and has gone to churches and schools to fingerprint teachers.

Ken represents citizen involvement at its best. Ken is genuinely concerned with helping the residents of Herndon and the police. Through his dedication to the HPCST, he remains a valued resource to the Town of Herndon and the Herndon Police Department.

## **Meritorious Service Award**

### **Senior Police Officer Dexter L. Morgan**

Senior Police Officer Morgan has served with the Town of Herndon since 1981. During this time he has held the positions of patrol officer, field training officer and crime scene technician. He is currently assigned to the Support Services Division in the Training and Personnel Section where he is responsible for the property room and assisting in the training function of the Department.

Officer Morgan is a latent print examiner and a blood stain analyst and is certified by the International Association for Identification as a crime scene technician. His work as a crime scene technician has resulted in the successful prosecution of numerous cases.

Officer Morgan is also the lead instructor for the Citizen's Police Academy. The Academy is currently in its 12<sup>th</sup> session and has graduated more than 200 citizens. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> session at which Officer Morgan has been the lead instructor.

Officer Morgan is usually the first person in the office every morning. His work ethic, devotion to duty, attention to detail and willingness to assist in any way needed reflects great credit upon himself and the Herndon Police. His 25 years of this exemplary service has earned him the Meritorious Service Award.

## **Meritorious Service Award**

### **Lieutenant N. Ron Thunman**

Lieutenant Ron Thunman has served the Town of Herndon since 1981. During this time he has held the position of police officer, detective, sergeant in charge of personnel and training and professional standards and lieutenant. He is currently assigned as assistant field commander responsible for special events and projects.

While assigned to the Professional Standards Section, Lt. Thunman served as the Department's public information officer and accreditation manager for the Department's second re-accreditation process. He also served as an assessor for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). He has written many of the Department's general orders and policies.

In 2000, Thunman was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and serves as assistant field operations commander. He obtained both his bachelors and masters degree while working for the Herndon Police Department. He is one of the best writers in the Department and has been nicknamed "the professor" by many of his peers. Over the years he has encouraged and mentored members of the Department to seek the benefit of furthering their education. He graduated from the FBI National Academy in 2006.

Ron lives in the Herndon community and has been involved with the youth, coaching little league baseball and basketball. Through his sustained exemplary performance, Lt. Thunman is truly worthy of the Meritorious Service Award.

## **Meritorious Service Award**

### **Detective Claudio R. Saa**

Detective Claudio R. Saa was given the task of investigating numerous gang related destruction of property cases that occurred during 2005. All of these cases involved gang graffiti being written or spray painted on various structures. Removal of the graffiti from defaced structures is extremely costly.. This type of crime is difficult to solve as there are usually no witnesses and very little evidence.

Due to the connection between graffiti and gang members, , there is virtually no cooperation from individuals who might know the perpetrators.

In 2005, Detective Saa was able to close 16 cases by arresting the offenders. His interviewing skills allowed him to obtain confessions in almost all of these cases and the cases were successfully prosecuted in court.

Detective Saa is to be commended for his interviewing skills, investigative techniques and perseverance which resulted in the successful closure of these cases.

### **Bronze Valor Award**

**Private First Class Edward E. Stapleton**

**Detective Lisa A. Kara**

**Private First Class E. Brian Hamilton**

**Private First Class Justin P. Dyer**

On February 16, 2006 at approximately 1:00 a.m., Officer Eddie Stapleton observed a white van traveling at a high rate of speed on Crestview Drive in the Town of Herndon. The van skidded to a stop at a red light; when the light turned green, the driver took off at a high rate of speed, driving in a reckless manner and traveling at approximately 70 miles per hour. Officer Stapleton got behind the van and initiated a traffic stop, but the driver refused to pull over. The vehicles turned onto Ferndale Avenue and tried to turn onto Park Avenue but the van hit a curb and blew a tire. The reckless driver continued to drive on the rim at approximately 40 to 45 miles per hour through a neighborhood.

The van finally stopped at Herndon Parkway near Cavalier Drive. Officers Stapleton, Dyer, Hamilton and Kara all positioned their police cruisers to perform a high risk traffic stop. They took up positions next to their cruisers in preparation for the driver's exit. The driver suddenly put his van in reverse and rammed an officer's cruiser. He then rammed another cruiser. Officers started scrambling to get out of harm's way. One officer, in an attempt to elude the ramming vehicle, struck a cruiser with his own, causing minor damage.

The driver in the van drove in reverse for approximately 400 feet until he struck a snow bank, where he bailed out of the vehicle and fled on foot. Officers Stapleton, Kara and Hamilton gave chase and apprehended the subject on Trevino Lane. While the officers were trying to place him into a cruiser, the subject kept resisting. He was bucking and kicking and had to be taken down to the ground. While on the ground, the subject still continued to disregard commands to stop resisting. The subject was finally sprayed with pepper spray. Even after being sprayed, the subject was combative and was rip-hobbled. He was charged with four felony counts of Attempted Malicious Wounding of a Police Officer, felony Eluding, Driving While Intoxicated, Reckless Driving, Possession of False Identification, Resisting Arrest and No Valid Operator's License. He was also served with two outstanding warrants from another jurisdiction.

One officer received minor injuries during the apprehension of the subject. These officers were under tremendous stress during this incident. They risked their own safety in their attempt to take this subject into custody, a person with no respect for his own safety or that of the officers he was attempting to strike. These officers are to be commended for their level heads, quick action and accurate judgment in order to get this dangerous person off the street.

## **OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

### ***Honorable Mentions***

**Detective Claudio R. Saa**  
**Detective Steven T. Pihonak**

Detective Claudio R. Saa and Detective Steven T. Pihonak were nominated for the Officer of the Year Award due to their hard work and dedication to the police department and the Town of Herndon throughout the year.

Detective Saa has received numerous awards for his work on the Gang Task Force. He is known throughout the Northern Virginia region for his knowledge and is often sought out to assist other jurisdictions with investigations. He has provided gang training to other jurisdictions and was a speaker on gangs at an ATF training seminar in Wichita, Kansas.



Detective Saa has closed numerous cases of gang related destruction of property cases, assisted Fairfax County Fire Marshall's Office with an arson case and has been involved in or assisted with investigations of robberies, burglaries, larcenies from auto and other destruction of property cases. Detective Saa's knowledge of street gangs and members was crucial in the investigation of multiple cases. Furthermore, his interviewing skills and his ability gain rapport with gang members resulted in confessions on several cases.

Detective Steven T. Pihonak has grown from an inexperienced detective to an outstanding professional with excellent investigative skills and abilities. He has been responsible for, or assisted in, several extremely violent or complex cases involving multiple victims and suspects. He has investigated rape cases, a series of burglaries where large amounts of stolen jewelry and electronic equipment were recovered, a murder where he convinced the suspect to turn himself in and a sexual assault case in which the mother of the victim wrote a letter commending him on his professional manner and compassion.

Detective Pihonak also carried a heavier than normal caseload when the Criminal Investigations Section lost a detective to another agency. He is always willing to assist other detectives and his fellow officers.

## **OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

Private First Class Edward E. Stapleton

Over the past year, Private First Class Eddie Stapleton has been involved in many high risk situations and has demonstrated his knowledge of his job and dedication to the citizens of Herndon.

Officer Stapleton initiated a vehicle pursuit that involved a reckless driver who was also suspected of being intoxicated. During this pursuit, the suspect rammed police vehicles, jeopardizing the lives of officers including Stapleton's. The suspect then fled on foot; his apprehension by Stapleton ended the threat he posed to other officers and the public.

In January 2006, the Town and surrounding areas were experiencing numerous street robberies. Following one of these robberies that occurred in Loudoun County, a lookout was given for a suspect vehicle. Officer Stapleton, who was

aware of the lookout, was driving home in his personal car after the completion of his shift and observed the vehicle. Stapleton cautiously followed the vehicle and notified the on-duty supervisor of their location. While following the car, patrol units were able to organize and conduct a high-risk traffic stop. Five suspects were apprehended by Herndon Police officers. Found in the vehicle were ski masks, gloves, 10 bags of marijuana and three loaded handguns. The arrests led to the closure of several cases in the Town of Herndon and surrounding jurisdictions. In this specific case, Stapleton was off duty and on his way home. This clearly demonstrates his dedication to the Town and safety of the citizens.

Officer Stapleton has demonstrated his dedication to his fellow employees by acting as a field training instructor and assists with the firearms program. He has devoted numerous hours in the armory in the care and maintenance of weapons. He can also be counted on to fill in during personnel shortages and special assignments.

Officer Stapleton is highly respected by his peers and other members of the law enforcement community. He continually strives to do his best with a positive attitude. Officer Stapleton is truly deserving of the Officer of the Year Award.

## **Previous Award Winners**

### **Gold Medal Winners**

Senior Police Officer Warrie N. Proffitt 2001  
Sergeant Michael J. Williams 2001

### **Silver Medal Winners**

Senior Sergeant John W. Orpin 2003  
Private First Class David B. Patterson 2003  
Private First Class Claudio R. Saa 2001  
Sergeant Michael B. Berg 1995  
Corporal Lawrence A. Whitmer, Jr. 1995

### **Bronze Medal Winners**

Senior Police Officer Robert A. Galpin 2003  
Detective Mathew G. Payne 2003  
Officer Randolph G. Philp 2003  
Private First Class Steven T. Pihonak 2003

Officer Damien C. Austin 2001  
Senior Police Officer Michael B. Berg 2001  
Officer Donald J Frisco 2001  
Officer Eric M. Hillebrand 2001  
Officer Leonard P. Hurd 2001  
Officer Sean W. Merritt 2001  
Officer Mikail A. Muhammad 2001  
Private First Class James J. Passmore 2001  
Lieutenant Earl H. Sheffer 2001  
Private First Class Stephen J. Thompson 2001

### **Meritorious Action Award Winners**

Private First Class Denise A. Randles 2002, 2003, 2005  
Corporal Robert A. Galpin 2005  
Detective Matthew G. Payne 2005  
Lieutenant Jeffrey P. Coulter 2005  
Detective Steven T. Pihonak 2001, 2005  
Corporal P. Kevin Nuckolls 2003, 2005  
Detective Lisa A. Kara 2003, 2005  
Senior Police Officer David B. Patterson 2003, 2005  
Detective Claudio R. Saa 2001, 2003, 2005  
Detective R. Lee Duranko 2005  
Officer James J. Passmore 2005  
Sergeant James M. Moore 2003, 2004, 2005  
Communications Technician Claudia O. Flores 2005  
Officer Jane A. Burns 2005  
Communications Technician Rithu Wadhwa 2005  
Officer William M. Baker 2004, 2005  
Officer Mark R. Fraser 2003, 2004  
Detective Khwaja S. Ahmad 2003  
Lieutenant Bradford C. Anzengruber 2003  
Officer Jay H. Choi 2003  
Officer E.B. Hamilton 2003  
Senior Police Officer Warrie N. Proffitt 2003  
Senior Sergeant John W. Orpin 2003  
Officer Adam S. Quiroga 2003  
Communications Technician Amy K. Lewis 2001  
Sergeant John W. Tacci 2001

### **Meritorious Service Award Winners**

Senior Sergeant Jerry S. Keys 2005  
Lieutenant Earl H. Sheffer 2005  
Lieutenant Donald W. Amos 2005  
Gracia C. Harper 2005  
Marjorie A. Martin 2005  
Chaplain R. David Fox 2005  
Frederick L. Kibler 2005  
Private First Class James J. Passmore 2004  
HPCST Stephen J. Kozup, 2004  
Communications Technician April M. Neach, 2004  
Senior Sergeant Jeffrey P. Coulter 2003  
HPCST Guy G. Masters 2003  
Senior Communications Technician Shelly M. Peters 2003  
Senior Police Officer Dexter L. Morgan 2003  
Sergeant Philip J. Farley 2002  
Technical Services Manager Charles T. Fletcher 2002  
HPCST George F. Lake 2002  
Senior Sergeant John W. Orpin 2002  
Senior Police Officer Lawrence Hildner 2001  
  
Records Technician Priscilla L. Mowery 2001  
Captain Robert L. Presgrave 2001  
Senior Police Officer Michael B. Berg 2001  
HPCST Jorge Rochac 2001  
Captain Darryl C. Smith 2001

### **Officer of the Year**

R. Lee Duranko 2005  
Jay H. Choi 2004  
James Moore 2003  
Claudio R. Saa 2002  
Warren G. Brathwaite 2001  
Stephen J. Thompson 1999  
G. Warren Brathwaite 1998  
Robert A. Galpin 1997  
R. Lee Duranko 1996  
David B. Sloan 1995

Darcy L. Burns 1994  
Michael B. Berg 1993  
P. Kevin Nuckolls 1992  
Dennis M. Royal 1991  
David B. Patterson 1990  
Sigfredo Quilles, Jr. 1989  
John W. Tacci 1988  
Earl H. Sheffer, Jr. 1987  
Jeffrey P. Coulter 1986  
Jerry S. Keys 1985  
Robert L. Presgrave 1984  
Donald E. Meeks 1983  
R. C. Church 1982  
Donald W. Amos 1981  
Douglas H. Bailey 1980  
Richard J. Cline 1979  
Patrick L. Wiley 1978  
Duane L. Atkisson 1977  
Darryl C. Smith 1976